News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

November 2025

Hello Worms

THE MEETING WILL START AT 1030 THIS MONTH AND PROBABLY

CONTINUING due to another organizations meeting starting at 1230 meaning they arrive at 1200.

The two big items in amateur radio lately are the ARRL Southeast Division Director election and push for the HOA antenna restriction reduction/elimination bill. Elections are important, especially if you want to complain about the way the club is run. Don't vote … keep you mouth shut. The HOA antenna restriction elimination bill has generated a massive response. I have received at least 20 emails pushing for a letter to my congressmen. I did it after one.

On the personally front I have spent a lot of time on the American Victory. Six weekends of haunted ship. Some nights were interesting at times but very tiring for an old man. One more night after this months meeting.

It appears The Wireman is closed. The website is closed for sure. I guess the kids didn't want to continue the business. I hav not done any research on this yet but will.

Bring your drink of choice and lunch to the meeting if you want. We will not be cooking but we have access to the Chamber of Commerce kitchen which has a microwave and a toaster oven so you can heat up/cook what you bring.

DID YOU KNOW

The *gladiatrix* were female gladiators of ancient Rome. Like their male counterparts, gladiatrices fought each other, or wild animals, to entertain audiences at games and festivals. Very little is known about female gladiators. They seem to have used much the same equipment as men, but were few in number and almost certainly considered an exotic rarity by their audiences.

THIS MONTH'S STIFF – SIR JOHN AMBROSE FLEMING

"Sorry, it only flows one way."

Philip Neidlinger, PE KA4KOE

Entered Mortal Coil: 29 November 1849
Assumed Room Temperature: 18 April 1945

Receiving wireless signals in The "Good Ole' Days" was not an easy proposition. First, in order to generate any appreciable signal at the receiving end, your spark transmitter had to be tremendously powerful. Second, antennas were extremely large in order to extract every little bit of RF energy flashing through the ether and to be at least minimally efficient given the extremely low frequencies that the transmitter utilized. Why all the fuss? Well, consider that the state of the art at the time for radio detection consisted of a crude little gadget called a coherer. The induced voltage at the antenna would cause iron filings inside a glass tube to stick, or "cohere", together a little bit, and electrical conduction would occur via external electrodes. After this cohesion took place, another gadget, a kludge, if you will, had to tap the tube to loosen the filings so another signal could be received. This "detector" didn't detect very well at all. The operator had to wear a cumbersome headset that was strapped on so tight it would almost make the poor chap's eyeballs pop out of his skull in order to silence every last bit of external noise. Remember, not only did the underpaid wireless operator have to keep from being annoyed by the boss, but the spark transmitter was both spectacular and LOUD. Often, the transmitter was in another room altogether. We're talking weak signal work here, folks. It's a wonder radio communication ever got off the ground in the first place. But, being unabashed capitalists as most inventors were, and still are, they just kept plugging away at the problem. Other detectors were tried utilizing various mineral substances and even electrolytic solutions, but the first really good detector was invented by this installment's dude, Sir John Ambrose Fleming.

John's first significant job consisted of working for the Edison Electric Light Company of London for a ten year period beginning in 1881. In 1883 he noticed a strange phenomenon inside the innards of common light bulbs. Carbon soot was being emitted by the filament and caused the bulbs to turn black with time. John inserted an electrode (what we now call a plate) inside in an effort to stop this undesired process. In further experiments he noted that a very small current flowed in the circuit when a positive voltage was applied to the plate. No current flowed when the voltage was negative in polarity. John applied an alternating voltage (Edison hated AC and didn't care for Tesla much either), and noted that only half of the voltage passed through. *Voila!* A Eureka moment, unfortunately, did **not** occur, as Fleming applied for a patent some time later in 1905. Ambrose called his gadget a thermionic valve. At the time of its conception, the detector was an invention waiting for an application. So, in essence, Fleming put his modified light bulb away in storage and apparently didn't think much of it until the boys down at Marconi's shop began making noise. Literally.

\Since he was a long-time consultant for Marconi's wireless company, Fleming got together with the Maestro and divulged the secret of his new detector. Guglielmo was definitely interested, and found that the new thermionic valve worked wonderfully in radio receivers. The little light bulb started appearing in radio receivers all over the place, until a certain rogue by the name of Lee Deforest (See DED 9) messed up Fleming's happy state of affairs by inserting another wire into the light bulb, and then sued the Englishman to boot. Fortunately, Fleming won the court battle with a settlement in 1920, and the thermionic valve was declared a valid invention in its own right. However, the honeymoon was short as the cat's whisker detector was invented two years later. The little glowing light bulbs stayed in the radios, but now they were being used as amplifiers, and later, as oscillators.

In Fleming's later years he remained active in the burgeoning electronics field. John was also knighted in honor of his accomplishments. He remarried at the age of 84. John didn't die destitute or a broken man, but quietly as most of us would prefer. This Dude's story happily ended well.

Cheers.
Philip Neidlinger, PE
KA4KOE

How-To-Geek by Andy Betts in partnership with NordVPN

Millions of us use VPNs every day to protect our data, browse securely, and access region-blocked content. Yet there are still a lot of outdated assumptions about what exactly a VPN is. Here are some of the most common myths, and what is actually true.

A VPN Makes You Completely Anonymous Online A VPN doesn't make you anonymous. It stops your ISP from tracking your online activities, and it hides your IP address from the sites and services that you visit. But there are many other ways in which you can still be tracked.

If you're logged into your account, Google can still track you in many ways. Log into other sites, and those sites will know what you're clicking on. If your browser has previously saved Facebook cookies, then Facebook will be able to see you on any site that has one of its Like or Share buttons. And so on.

Even the VPN itself can track you if you haven't chosen a privacy-focused one.

All VPNs Are the Same If you need a VPN, it can be tempting to open up your app store or do a quick online search and download the first one that you find. This is a bad idea because VPNs vary wildly. They can differ on speed, performance, security, features, and general trustworthiness. Some prioritize things like streaming or torrenting, while others put privacy at the forefront.

It's important to do your research before you sign up. Our guide to the best VPNs of 2025 will help you find a service that's worth subscribing to, whether you want the best of the best or are looking for a cheap or free provider that is still reliable.

Free VPNs Are Just as Good as Paid Ones Just as not all VPNs are the same, there's also a marked difference between free VPNs and paid ones.

First of all, there's the issue of funding. Paid VPNs have a very clear and transparent funding model. It's your monthly subscription. But free VPNs need to make money from you in another way. Some will inject ads; many others will log your browsing habits and sell that data to third parties.

On top of that, free VPNs tend to be much more limited. They have fewer servers in fewer locations around the world. They might be slower, and there might be limits on how much bandwidth you can use each month.

Some paid VPN providers offer limited free plans you can use in a pinch. But as a general rule, you shouldn't use free VPNs.

VPNs Protect You From Viruses and Malware A VPN is typically classed as security software, but it is not an antivirus tool. It encrypts your internet traffic, which helps protect you when using public Wi-Fi, but if you encounter a dodgy website or download an infected file, it won't help.

Some VPNs do offer limited protection, filtering your traffic to block sites that are known for phishing or delivering malware. But this doesn't go much beyond the tools that your browser already has.

It's questionable whether you even need antivirus software anymore. If you do want it for peace of mind, don't assume your VPN will be enough.

VPNs Always Slow Down Your Internet There used to be a general rule that using a VPN would slow down your internet. Heavy encryption combined with limited infrastructure on connections that were slower to begin with made them tough to use. It's a myth that has persisted, even though it's no longer true.

The big VPN players now have hundreds, if not thousands, of servers all around the world, and use faster modern protocols like WireGuard. You should see no hit on the performance. In fact, if you use an ISP that still throttles certain types of traffic, a VPN could actually speed up your connection.

VPNs Are Only for "Shady" Activity VPNs sometimes get an unfair reputation as being tools for certain dodgy activities, used by hackers or people doing something illegal. Some governments around the world might even be trying to fuel that reputation because VPNs are the best way to bypass age restrictions on many websites.

But VPNs are entirely legitimate. They provide a level of privacy to protect you from snooping and tracking, and make it safer to use public networks. They make your data and online activities more secure. And they can help you to bypass censorship and region blocks for completely valid reasons, like accessing news and educational resources. Using a VPN is not in any way suspicious.

VPNs Guarantee Access to Any Streaming Library One of the most common uses of a VPN is to watch streaming services from another country. This might be so that you can access a different region's Netflix catalog, or maybe get BBC iPlayer in America, or Hulu in Europe. While it often works, it isn't guaranteed.

Streaming services are constantly trying to block IP addresses associated with VPNs. So even if your chosen VPN works with a service today, you can't be certain that it will still work tomorrow.

If this is your priority, you should choose a VPN that explicitly states that it works with overseas streamers. You might not get guaranteed uninterrupted coverage, but it should work better than those services that do not mention it at all.

VPNs are powerful security and privacy tools. They encrypt your internet traffic, protect your identity online, and let you access content that is blocked in your region. They're completely legal (in most countries), but they aren't magic, and they aren't all as good as each other. Now you know what is and isn't true about VPNs, you'll be able to make an informed decision about whether you need one and which to choose.

* UPDATE: BEACHES ON THE AIR*

Your Editor

Just checked the Beaches on the Air website, Beaches On The Air | Amateur radio from the beach ,. It is still going although I don't thin it has caught on much in the US except Puerto Rico. Most of the recent activations are in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. For those who do Parks on the Air and have runout of near-by parks Beaches on the Air seems to be an attractive alternative in the sunshine state, not so much in Ohio.

CLUB MEETING and ZOOM

The meeting time is 1030 on Saturday morning at the Lurie Civic Building on the St Petersburg College campus in Seminole. Turn west at the light at 113th St N and about 92nd Ave N. It's the first building on the north side. Here is a link to a Google map: Google Maps . There are a few parking spots in front the Chamber building but double parking is fine since we will be

able to find the owner to move his vehicle if necessary. Alternately if you go another 100 yards past you can park in the college parking lot. We will not be offering a ZOOM of the meeting

CLUB NETS

Check in on the club net Thursdays at 1930 and 2000 (or at the end of the 2M net). 2M at 146.850 – with a tone of 146.2. Our 6M net runs after our regular 2M net on 53.150 – 1MHz offset 146.2 tone.

LOCAL NETS

MONDAY

1830	147.060+ no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	St Petersburg
1900	144.210 USB	CARS, vertical polarization	Clearwater
1900	147.135 +146.2	Zephyrhills ARC	Zephyrhills
2000	147.165+ 136.5	Brandon ARS	from Brandon
2000	50.135	Pinellas ARK	Pinellas County
2030	NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net,	NI4CE system
2030	145.450	Pinellas ARK	Pinellas County

TUESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 50.200 USB	6M net	Brandon ARS
1900 28.365 USB	10M Net	Clearwater
1900 NI4CE system	WCF Section VHF ARES	NI4CE system
1930 145.170 & 442.4 both pl 156.7	Pinellas ACS net	Clearwater
1930 444.900 +141.3	Sheriff's Tactical ARC	Tampa
2000 NI4CE system	WCF Skywarn net	NI4CE system
2000 147.105+ 146.2	Tampa ARC net	from Tampa
2000 28.365 USB	simplex	Brandon ARS
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system
2100 28.465 USB	10/10 net	from Orlando
1900 146.490 simplex	3RD Tuesday monthly, Hillsborough Co ARES simplex Net	

WEDNESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 147.165 + 136.5	Humpday Net	from Bandon
1930 52.020 simplex	Suncoast 6'ers	from St Petersburg
1930 NI4CE system	WCF Section Digital Info Ne	NI4CE system
2000 147.105 146.2	Greater Tampa CERT net	from Tampa

2000 146.97- 146.2	Clearwater ARS	from Clearwater
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system
2100 NI4CE system	Tampa Bay Traders Net	non-affiliated
0000-2359 HF Winlink	Winlink Wednesday Net	

https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html

THURSDAY

1800 146.52 simplex	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	North Tampa
1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 444.750 +146.2	Fusion net	from Tampa
1915 224.660- no tone	St Pete ARC	from St Petersburg
1930 146.6385 -127.3	Lakeland ARC	from Lakeland
1930 440.1 +162.2	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	from Tampa
1930 146.850- 146.2	Wormhole	from Pinellas Co
2000 53.150 –1MHz 146.2	Wormhole	from Pinellas Co
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system

FRIDAY

1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 3.830 LSB	Brandon 80M Net	from Brandon
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system

SATURDAY

0730 3.940 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM	WCF Section HF Net	from WCF
1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system

SUNDAY

0800 3.933	Florida Traders Net	non-affiliated
1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930 NI4CE system	WCF Section Net	NI4CE system
2000 147.550 simplex	550 Simplex Net	Pinellas County
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system
2100 144.210 USB	Clearwater ARS	vertical orientation

FOR SALE / WANTED

Anyone having something for sale or who might be looking for an item let me know. I will not print phone numbers or email addresses unless specifically told to since this newsletter might end up on the web. The exception is when I get the information off the web. If you are a member of the Wormhole then you can ask club members for the persons contact information. If you are not a member ... why not? OK, if you are not a member you can contact me at the email address at the end of this newsletter, I will give you the information to contact the person involved. If you want to see anything here and you are coming to the meeting let the seller know, maybe he can bring it.

FOR SALE,
See Bill AG4QX for the following: make me an offer.

*ICOM IC-W32A , 2m and 440 HT, AA battery pack	$25
*Heathkit HD-1215 Phone patch looks ok	$10
*Drake WV-5 wattmeter looks ok	$75
*Cushcraft A4S, 10/15/20 4 element beam	$250
*Cushcraft AV-12AVQ, 10/15/20 vertical	$125
*Cushcraft A50-#S, 6m beam	$125
*Cushcraft A-#WS, 17/12 WARC beam	$250
*15000 V neon sign transformer currently used for Jacobs ladder	$30

HAMFESTS

2025

November 8 **Pinellas Park, SPARCFest, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, Southeast corner of US 19 and 49th Street, Talk-in on 147.060+ no tone. VE testing at 0900. Website has not been updated yet.**

December 12 & 13 **Plant City, the 2025 Tampa Bay Hamfest and West Central Florida Section Convention,** Friday and Saturday**, at the Strawberry Festival grounds, admission $13, 16x40 ft tailgate space $10, electric $10, for information contact Bill Williams AG4QX,** chairman@fgcarc.org **or go to** http://www.tampabayhamfest.org **or you can just ask me, Jim or Dee at a meeting ;-)**

2026

January 17 **TARCFest** TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, 8AM-1PM, $5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables must be reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, license testing after, more info at http://hamclub.org/ Date not confirmed .

Fourth full weekend January	Winter Field Day https://www.winterfieldday.com/
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/
March/April	MS Walks
April	MS150 bike now named Suncoast Challenge http://www.citrustour.org/register.php
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, http://www.svhfs.org
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Mid May	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events
Mid May	Annual Armed Forces Crossband Test
Mid-May	Florida Hurricane Exercise
Late May	Dayton Hamfest
May, Memorial Day Weekend	Wormfest
First weekend in June	Museum Ships on the Air
Fourth weekend in June	Field Day http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/
Third weekend in August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week https://illw.net/
September	Run for All Children's
Mid October	The Great Shakeout https://www.shakeout.org
October, 3rd weekend	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest http://www.fgcarc.org/

North American QSO Party

Mode	Contest Weekend
CW	2nd full weekend January

	1st full weekend August
SSB	3rd full weekend January
	3rd full weekend August
RTTY	last Saturday February
	3rd full weekend July

YOUR WORMHOLE OFFICERS

Bill AG4QX is President and editor of this newsletter, the Vice President position is open, Treasurer is Jim KD4MZL, Paul KA4IOX is the Secretary, Dee N4GD is the Repeater Trustee and Mike KV0OOM is our webmaster.

YOUR WORMHOLE REPEATERS

53.150 –1Mz PL 146.2

442.625 +5Mz PL 146.2

146.850 - 600Kz PL 146.2

The Wormhole 2M and 440 repeaters are both now dual mode Yaesu DR-2X. FM analog as always and Yaesu Fusion, a C4FM digital mode.

The Wormhole website is at: http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org.

West Central Florida Section website: http://www.arrlwcf.org/.

The ARRL website is at: http://www.arrl.org/

This newsletter is written for The Glorious Society of the Wormhole, an ARRL affiliated amateur radio club located around the Seminole section of Pinellas County Florida. Anyone wishing to be added or removed from The Glorious Society of the Wormhole mailings please write to me at the address below and thy will be done.

73,
Bill Williams
AG4QX
ag4qx AT arrl DOT net